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## Tip of The Point

"Teamwork and personal rigidity  
just don't mix."

- John C. Maxwell

## Calendar

Nov. 10 – Marine Corps 237<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Nov. 12 – Veterans Day (federal  
holiday)

Nov. 16 – Marine Corps Systems  
Command 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
observance

Nov. 19-21 – Second Annual MCSC  
Turkey Bowl with championship  
games at 10 a.m. Nov. 21

Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving

## The Point

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Corps Systems Command.

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## MCSC observes 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The officers, enlisted Marines and civilian members of the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) will join together at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 16 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MCSC and its predecessor, the Marine Corps Research, Development and Acquisition Command (MCRDAC). The gathering will take place on the Hospital Point Parade Field.

MCSC traces its beginning to MCRDAC, which the Marine Corps established Nov. 18, 1987, as required by the Goldwater Nichols Act. The Marine Corps formed the new acquisition organization to shorten the time it would take to translate a requirement into a development effort, ensuring that technology advances were not encumbered by a lengthy staffing and review process.

In addition to improving the acquisition process, MCRDAC was organized to make it more responsive to operational forces and to comply with Department of Defense and Department of the Navy initiatives. MCRDAC took the majority of these separate activities and integrated them into one: the Development Center at Quantico, Va., the current Headquarters Marine Corps staff of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Studies, and the Acquisition Division of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Installations and Logistics.

## Benefits open season begins Nov. 12

Federal Benefits Open Season begins Nov. 12 and ends Dec. 10. The Civilian Human Resources Web site at <http://www.public.navy.mil/donhr/Benefits/Pages/BenefitsOpenSeason.aspx> has current information about the open season.

Plan booklets are available in early November. The 2013 premium rates for Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Programs (FEDVIP) can be accessed on the above Web site. The average 2013 premium increase for FEHB is 3.4 percent and less than 1 percent for FEDVIP. Employees are strongly encouraged to start reviewing available information to be ready to make their open-season decisions.

For more information, call the benefits line at (888) 320-2917 and select menu option #4 to speak with a Customer Service Representative (CSR). CSRs are available from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays. The TTY number is (866) 359-5277.

You may also email questions to [navybenefits@navy.mil](mailto:navybenefits@navy.mil). You must include your full name, pay plan, grade, contact telephone number and the best time to call you, but do not include Privacy Act Information such as date of birth or Social Security number.

## CFC season continues

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) solicitation season is underway and will continue until Dec. 15. The Marine Corps Base Quantico goal (which includes all tenant activities) is \$650,000. Last year, MCSC was the No. 1 contributing organization aboard the base.

The 2012 Combined Federal Campaign is the only authorized charitable-giving drive for employees in the Federal workplace. This annual fundraising campaign supports a variety of health, human and other services provided by international, national and local charitable organizations. CFC is a successful, cost-efficient fundraising campaign that provides federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for others.

CFC pledge cards are available from organization key workers. If your organization does not have a designated key worker, Staff Sergeant J.A. Nix and Corporal A.V. Medina can assist you.

The Combined Federal Campaign Charity List and the list of key workers can be accessed on VIPER via the following link:

<https://mcs cviper.usmc.mil/Lists/Command%20Messages/DispForm.aspx?ID=497&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fmcs cviper%2Eusmc%2Emil%2FPages%2FVIPER%2Easpx>

Checks must be made payable to Combined Federal Campaign or CFC rather than to the specific organization. CFC distributes donations to the designated organizations based on the donor's pledge card instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Nix at (703) 432-3878 or Medina at (703) 432-3031.

## Command conducts female Marine cover survey

MCSC is conducting a survey to find out what female Marines think about new dress and service covers or caps. According to the MCSC Product Manager for Infantry Combat Equipment, the purpose of the survey is to obtain user feedback, and the acquired data will be used to formulate recommended changes to the current caps. All female Marines are invited to take the Improved Female Dress and Service Cap survey online at one of these links:

Command Access Card (CAC)-enabled users, use this site:

<https://usmcsurveys.natick.army.mil/>

Non-CAC-enabled users or those with CAC issues, use this site:

<https://surveys.natick.army.mil/marines/cap.nsf>

The survey ends Jan. 18.

## Contracting officer cycles for Best Buddies Challenge

*By Jim Katzaman*

*Marine Corps Systems Command Corporate Communications*

For John Wahl, the Third Annual Audi Best Buddies Challenge in Washington, D.C., offered a two-fold benefit: a reward for being physically active and an opportunity to raise funds for a worldwide charity. The Procurement Contracting Officer with Global Combat Support System - Marine Corps and his friend, Paul Curley, from Boston, pedaled 100 miles in more than four hours Oct. 20 to raise almost \$1,000 for the cause.

More than 2,500 people participated in the event that included cycling options of 100, 50 and 20 miles. Altogether they raised \$2.5 million for the organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"I wanted to raise funds for a well-deserved program," Wahl said. "It also helps inspire me to maintain and reach new fitness goals."

The October event originated on the National Mall and, for those tackling the 100-mile course, continued north out of the city along MacArthur Boulevard into Montgomery County, Md., across the Point of Rocks Bridge and into Loudoun County, Va.

“Along with a few other riders in my group,” Wahl said, “we crossed into the Leesburg, Va., finishing area around four hours and some minutes, which was a respectable average of 18 mph.”

The event, which was open to participants of all ages and abilities and designed to showcase the Best Buddies mission in action, also featured the Carl Lewis Challenge, a 5K run-walk chaired and led by the Olympic gold-medalist himself.

Wahl urged others to consider participating in next year’s Best Buddies Challenge.

## **National parks free to all for Veterans Day weekend**

America's 398 national parks will offer the public free admission Nov. 10-12 during Veterans Day weekend in honor of those who serve and have served in the U.S. military, according to a National Park Service news release.

## **Special report on sexual assault prevention and response**

Military leaders at all levels must take responsibility to stop sexual assault, said Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta.

## **Submissions accepted for *The Point***

Each month, the Command’s electronic newsletter *The Point* brings Marines, Civilian Marines and families the latest news in Marine Corps Systems Command. Topics include security, safety and features from contingency organizations, program management offices, program managers, deputy commanders, assistant commanders, support staff and many other teams. To submit an article for this newsletter, send it to [mcscpao@usmc.mil](mailto:mcscpao@usmc.mil). Photographs and graphics are not published. Submission deadlines are the second-to-last Thursday of the month. The next deadline is Nov. 21. *The Point* is distributed the first Tuesday of each month.